access and junction charges to the Department of Telecom.

11. The licensee will also pay Wireless licence fee, WPC Royalty etc.

12. The licences will be issued on a non-exclusive basis.

Telephone Service in Nawrangpur District of Orissa

3351. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone service in Nawrangpur district of Orissa in not upto the mark.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the telecom service there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. The telephone services in Nawrangpur District are satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The following steps are being taken to further improve the services;

(i) Induction of modern technologies in the network.

(ii) Upgradation of out-door plant.

(iii) Replacing over-head trunk lines by Digital trunk media progressively.

(iv) Training of staff to improve the skill.

Plans to improve the Post Offices in Assam

3352. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of population/village which are served by a post office in the country as a whole and in Assam as on date;

(b) whether there are any plans/projects to improve the existing quality and quantity of post offices in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and is not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The details of population/villages served on an average by a post office in the country as a whole and in Assam are as under:—

	National	Assam
—Population served per post office	5517	5887
—Villages served per post office	4.53	7.28

(b) and (c) There is a target of opening of 25 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Assam in 1997-98.

The following action has been taken to improve the quality of service in the Post Offices:—

(i) 65 post offices counters have been computerised.

(ii) 20 post offices have been modernised.

(iii) Letter boxes have been installed in villages having population of 500 or above.

(iv) VSAI Technology is extablished in four centres.

(v) Night buses and private mail motors are utilised for mail carriage.

Target of New Telephone Lines in Silchar

3353. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a target of 3000 new lines of telephones in Silchar was fixed for the year 1996-97 which has not been achieved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to be taken in this regard?